



No. 4331.55







# NOTES

ON THE

## LINCOLN FAMILIES OF MASSACHUSETTS,

WITH

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE FAMILY OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

LATE PRESIDENT OF THE U. STATES.

BY SOLOMON LINCOLN,

OF HINGHAM.

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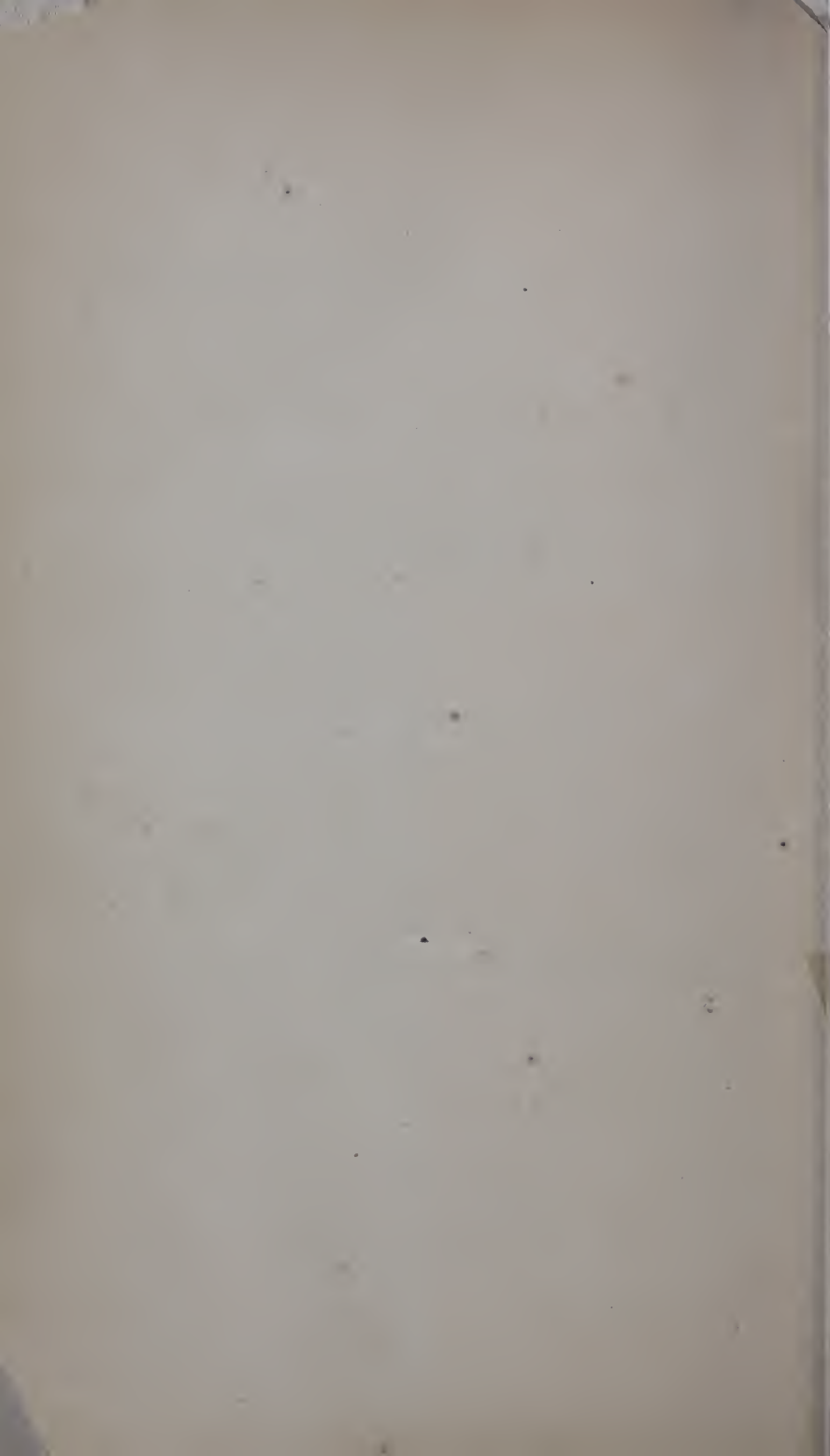
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## THE

# LINCOLN FAMILIES OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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A GENEALOGY of the Lincoln Families of Massachusetts has never been published, nor do we know that a complete one has been prepared. They have become so numerous and are so widely scattered as almost to defy the skill of the most persevering genealogist to arrange them with reference to their origin, or to trace them to the place of their earliest settlement.

The general belief, however, among those who are most familiar with the history of the Lincolns of Massachusetts is, that they first settled at Hingham, on the South Shore of Massachusetts Bay, and that all the Lincolns of this country are their descendants. Whenever any particular family even in a remote part of the country has been traced to the place of its settlement, it has been found to have been at Hingham; and when it could not be traced to that spot, it could not be to any other. It may be remarked, also, that in those cases where the chain of evidence to connect any family with Hingham as the place of its origin has not been complete, tradition has almost invariably pointed in that direction.

In the case of the family of our late President, however, we do not claim that the evidence, historical or traditional, has yet been collected to show that Hingham was the home of his ancestors—but, before leaving the subject, we shall present some facts which indicate pretty strongly that such was the fact, and we believe that it is reserved for some diligent and persevering genealogist to bring to light the hidden links which will form an incontrovertible chain of testimony to establish it.

As materials to aid in such a work, it seems to be desirable to present in a succinct manner some account of the several families of Lincolns, who were among the early settlers of Hingham, with references to some of the more prominent of their descendants, pointing out the course of inquiry which may lead to satisfactory results. In fact a summary statement of what we do know of the several families who settled in Hingham, including those who emigrated to other places, will embrace very nearly all of the name throughout the country. The exceptions are very few.

It may be premised, that Hingham was formally settled September 18, 1635, by Rev. Peter Hobart and twenty-nine others who drew house-lots on that day. In the three subsequent years, large accessions were made to the number of the settlers, embracing, with the first comers, nearly all the names which have been conspicuous in the annals of the town.

In 1636, house-lots were granted to Thomas Lincoln, the Miller, Thomas Lincoln, the Weaver, and Thomas Lincoln, the Cooper. In 1638, Thomas Lincoln, the Husbandman, and his brother Stephen Lincoln received grants of house-lots. The name of Daniel Lincoln appears in the Town Records in 1644, as one of the young men, and Samuel Lincoln, brother of the Weaver, came to this country in 1637, and afterwards settled in Hingham.

Robert Lincoln, a laborer of Boston, 1646, who died in 1663, and William Lincoln, of Roxbury, a soldier in the brave Capt. Johnson's company, who was wounded in the great Narraganset Fight, Dec. 19, 1675, and died soon after, do not appear to have left any descendants, and hence will require no further attention.

The foregoing embrace the heads of all the families of early emigrants, enumerated by Mr. Savage in his Genealogical Dictionary, and all that are known to us by history or tradition. To some one of them, it is confidently believed, all those bearing the name in this country must look for their origin. Very little doubt is entertained that they all came from the County of Norfolk in England. Stephen Lincoln, and his brother Thomas Lincoln, the Husbandman, were from Wymondham (Windham). Thomas Lincoln, the Weaver, came from Hingham, and his brother Samuel Lincoln from Norwich to Salem, and thence to our Hingham.



We have evidence of authentic records that the early settlers of Hingham by the name of Lincoln, were four bearing the name of Thomas Lincoln, distinguished from each other by their occupations, as Miller, Weaver, Cooper and Husbandman, Stephen Lincoln, brother of the Husbandman, Daniel Lincoln, and Samuel Lincoln, brother of the Weaver.

To dispose of them in their order :—Thomas Lincoln, the Miller, removed with his family to Taunton in 1652, had sons Thomas, John and Samuel, and grandsons three Thomases—two Samuels—two Johns—Jonah and Ebenezer.

Thomas Lincoln, the Weaver, although twice married, left no children.

Thomas Lincoln, the Cooper, had sons Thomas, Joseph and Benjamin, and grandsons Thomas, Josiah, Joseph, Israel, Nehemiah, Elisha, John, Benjamin and Jeremiah.

Thomas Lincoln, the Husbandman, had sons Joshua, Thomas and Caleb, and grandsons Luke, Joshua, Peter, Caleb, Jacob, Solomon, Isaac, Thomas and Ebenezer.

Stephen Lincoln had one son only, Stephen, and grandsons Stephen, David and James.

Daniel Lincoln had sons Daniel and Ephraim, and grandsons Moses, Daniel, Joshua and Ephraim.

Samuel Lincoln had sons Samuel, Daniel, Mordecai and Thomas, and grandsons Samuel, Jedidiah, Elisha, Obadiah, Hezekiah, Mordecai, Abraham and Isaac.

Our claim is that the early settlers of Hingham above enumerated were the progenitors of all the Lincolns of this country. A few remarks upon each family may throw some light upon this position and aid the labors of the genealogist.

The family of Thomas Lincoln, the Miller, is identified with the flourishing city of Taunton, where they were proprietors of Iron-works about two centuries since. But here we meet with one of the most serious obstacles in the way of our researches. The Town Records of Taunton, prior to 1800, were unfortunately burnt in 1838. Many of the early Marriages, Births and Burials were recorded in the Plymouth Colony Records, at Plymouth, and have been judicious-

ly published by order of our Legislature. In the Proprietors' Record of Taunton, which still exist, may be found recorded Marriages, Births and Deaths, which have been published in the Genealogical Register in 1862 and 1863. These gleanings are valuable, and lead the persevering antiquary in the right direction to trace out the Lincolns of Taunton, Norton and other places in Bristol County and in Western Massachusetts.

The remarkable family of Lincoln in Windham, Connecticut, may properly be noticed in this connection. A Samuel Lincoln was there as early as 1692. His descendants claim to have originated in Hingham, upon evidence which is entitled to some consideration. His son Samuel reached the age of 101 years lacking a few days. Nathaniel, son of the 2d Samuel, at his death, had attained the age of 105 years, 3 months and 18 days. Nathaniel, son of this Nathaniel, died in 1864, having nearly completed his 94th year. (*Ante*, p. 267.)

Thomas Lincoln, the Weaver, as has been before remarked, left no descendants.

Thomas Lincoln, the Cooper, who died in Hingham, was the ancestor of Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, of the army of the Revolution, afterwards Lieut. Gov. of Massachusetts, and Collector of Boston for nearly twenty years. He had sons Benjamin (H. C. 1777), a distinguished lawyer of Boston, who died in 1788, and Judge Theodore Lincoln (H. C. 1785); who settled in Dennysville, Maine, where he died in 1852, at the age of 89. The descendants of Thomas Lincoln, the Cooper, occupy the house-lot granted to him in 1636. This family of Lincolns embraces many individuals whose names are prominent in our public annals, among whom we mention with affectionate remembrance, Professor Benjamin Lincoln, of the University of Vermont (son of Judge Theodore Lincoln), a gentleman of distinguished scientific attainments, who died in 1835, at the age of 32.

Thomas Lincoln, the Husbandman, has numerous descendants in Hingham, in the County of Worcester, and in other parts of the State. We are less able to point to distinguished names in this family than in some others, as guides for further researches; but recognize some who have rendered important services in civil and military capacities.

Stephen Lincoln, the brother of the Husbandman, is well represented by descendants now living, who are confined almost exclusively to the limits of Hingham. Of the deceased, were Isaac Lincoln (H. C. 1722), for a long series of years a public school teacher in his native town; Abner Lincoln (H. C. 1788), the first preceptor of Derby Academy, an accomplished scholar and teacher; Rev. Perez Lincoln (H. C. 1798), formerly minister of Gloucester; and of the living, the Rev. Calvin Lincoln (H. C. 1820), the beloved Pastor of the First Parish in Hingham.

Daniel Lincoln, the "young man" of 1644, has numerous descendants in Hingham, and Cohasset, embracing graduates, teachers, lawyers, and other men of distinguished reputation, within the limits of the old town.

We come now to the family of Samuel Lincoln, in which we find more names than in any other, which lead to the belief that in this direction we are to look for the ancestry of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States. Before noting the facts which are the foundation of this belief, it may be well to state that to this family belong the honored names of Levi Lincoln (H. C. 1772), a native of Hingham, afterwards of Worcester, Attorney General of the United States and Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, and acting Governor after the death of Gov. Sullivan; also of his two distinguished sons, Levi Lincoln (H. C. 1802), who besides filling various public offices with great ability, was by nine elections, the popular Governor of Massachusetts, and Enoch Lincoln, Governor of Maine—also of Rev. Henry Lincoln (H. C. 1786), for many years Pastor of the First Parish in Falmouth, Mass., and who died at Nantucket, in 1857, at the patriarchal age of 91, and the venerable Dr. Isaac Lincoln, of Brunswick, Maine, an eminent physician now living, one of the two survivors of the class of 1800 at Harvard, and an Overseer of Bowdoin College for upwards of sixty years; and many others, embracing some sixteen graduates at the Colleges of New England.

We have before mentioned among the sons of the first Samuel Lincoln, Daniel, Mordecai and Thomas, and among others of his grandsons, Mordecai, Abraham and Isaac, which are now repeated for convenient comparison with what follows.

In a correspondence which we held with the late President in 1848, he then being a member of Congress, he stated, "My father's name is Thomas—my grandfather's, was Abraham, the same of my own. My grandfather went from Rockingham County in Virginia, to Kentucky, about the year 1782, and two years afterwards was killed by the Indians. We have a vague tradition, that my great-grandfather went from Pennsylvania to Virginia, and that he was a Quaker. Further than this, I have never heard any thing. It may do no harm to say that 'Abraham' and 'Mordecai' are common names in our family." In a subsequent letter, written in 1848, he says, "I have mentioned that my grandfather's name was Abraham. He had, as I think I have heard, four brothers, Isaac, Jacob, Thomas and John. He had three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas, the last my father. My uncle Mordecai had three sons, Abraham, James and Mordecai. Uncle Josiah had several daughters and an only son Thomas. My father has an only child, myself of course. This is all I know certainly on the subject of names; it is however my father's understanding that Abraham, Mordecai and Thomas are old family names of ours."

It has been stated, upon what authority we are ignorant, that "about the middle of the last century, the great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln removed from Berks County, Pennsylvania, to Rockingham County, Virginia." The late President, as has been seen, spoke of it as a vague tradition, yet from the following facts it must be admitted that the tradition has some confirmation. These facts, derived from Rupp's History of Berks County, have been kindly furnished by William B. Trask, Esq., of the Genealogical Society. The facts are as follows:

"Among the 'taxables' of Reading, the capital of Berks County, returned by the assessors in 1757, is the name of Thomas Lincoln (page 151). 'Exeter Township,' Berks County, was settled prior to 1720; a few years after the organization of the County (which was in 1752), the names of 'Mordecai Lincoln' and 'Abraham Lincoln' were found among the 'taxables' (page 185). In 'Union Township,' Berks County, a list of the 'taxables of this township' was returned in 1758; among the names I find that of 'John Lincoln' (page 250).



'Abraham Lincoln' was representative from Berks County, one of six representatives for the years 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785 (page 482). In 1785, his name was first on the list."

In May last, Rev. Arthur Charles Copeman, Perpetual Curate of St. Andrews, of Norwich, England, addressed a Letter to Hon. Charles Francis Adams, our Minister at London, communicating some information respecting the Lincolns of Norwich. Mr. Adams caused the letter to be forwarded to the writer of this article. Mr. Copeman says, "My excuse for troubling you must be the importance of securing every scrap of interesting information relating to the late President of the United States, whose untimely death the whole civilized world laments. I beg to enclose a copy of the inscription on a mural tablet in St. Andrew's Church, which possibly preserves the memory of a relative of the late President, and further to state that I have had an interview with a Mr. Lincoln of this city, who showed me a curious chased copper box with the inscription 'Abraham Lincoln, Norwich, 1731.' Mr. Lincoln also informed me that one James (?) Lincoln, brother of his great-grandfather, is believed to have settled in America. Thomas Lincoln, my informant's grandfather, was born in 1739, and died in 1800. The date of his uncle's emigration would therefore probably be early in the 18th century. The owner of the box was also a brother of the emigrant." The inscription is as follows:—

In Memory of  
MR. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
of this Parish,  
who died July 13th, 1798, aged 79 years,  
and Hannah his daughter,  
who died September 23d, 1769, aged 6 years.

"From Thee, Great God, we spring, to Thee we tend,  
Path, Motive, Guide, Original and End."

Taking into view the fact, that our first Samuel Lincoln was from Norwich, and although he is called of Hingham (Eng.) in Cushing's

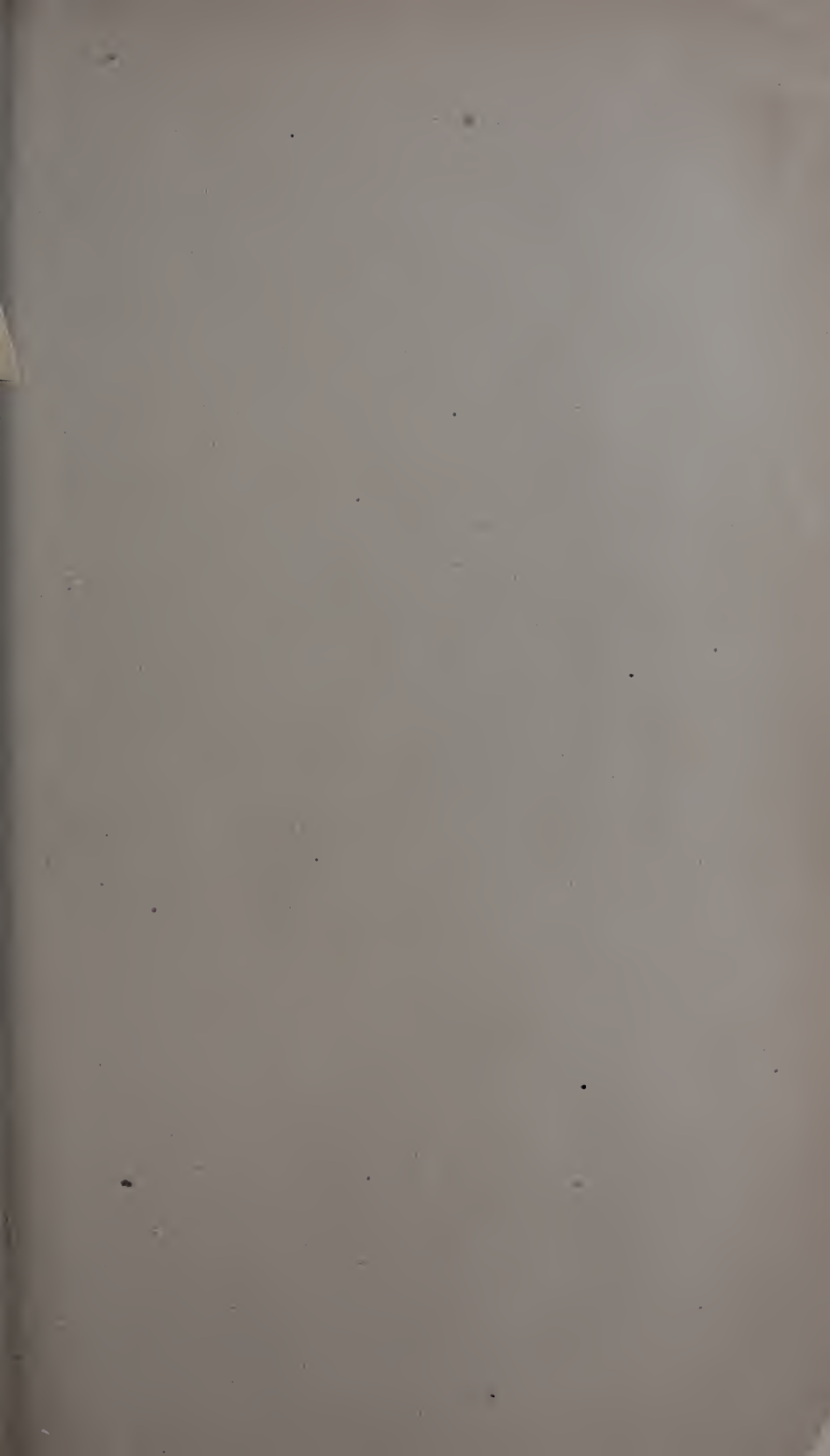
Manuscripts, <sup>s</sup> ancestors may have been residents of the former place, the similarity of names mentioned by Mr. Copeman to those of the descendants of Samuel, may induce to further examination of the records of Norwich for more light on the subject of our investigation.

But we will not pursue the subject further at the present time. We have copious extracts from the Parish Registers of Hingham, England, which may be hereafter presented. Our object has been to give an account of the early settlers of Hingham, by the name of Lincoln, that genealogical students may not be misled by traditions concerning their names, number and origin, and we have desired, by brief notices of some of their more prominent descendants, to indicate a line of investigation which may lead to a discovery of the connection existing between the various families, including that of the late President of the United States.











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